Constitutional Recognition of D.G.H.C.

4022. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, D.G.H.C. Darjeeling has submitted a claim to Central Government for constitutional recognition of D.G.H.C. and its inclusion in VIth schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the opinion of Government of West Bengal as well as Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) :(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Chairman, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council has made some demands for review of entire Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988 with a view to getting more powers for the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. Government of West Bengal in consultation with Chairman and Chief Executive Councellor, has set up a High Powered Committee to review the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988.

GNLF Claims for Gorkhaland

4023. SHRI DAWA LAMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 5th April, 2000 the Gorkha National Liberation Front has declared their claim for Gorkhaland;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during signing of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council accord, Shri Subhash Ghising agreed not to raise the demand of Gorkhaland for ever; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government regarding present developments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO) : (a) As per reports available, on 5-4-2000, the GNLF Branch Committees of [redacted] and Kalimpong of Darjeeling district in West Bengal observed 'Gorkhaland Demand Revival Day' to commemorate the party's foundation, by holding a rally. At this rally, GNLF Branch Committee leaders made a plea for formation of Gorkhaland.